

What is Claimed:

- 1 1. A method for code-tracking in CDMA communication systems
- 2 comprising
- 3 a) receiving of an electromagnetic signal (10) being a
- 4 superposition of a plurality of signal components of
- 5 different signal paths (*i*),
- 6 b) digitising (14) the received signal (10, 13),
- 7 c) distributing the digitised signal (15) to receiver
- 8 fingers (1, 2, ..., *N*) each of which is
- 9 assigned to one of the signal paths,
- 10 d) distributing the digitised signal (110, 111) to a
- 11 detection stream and a synchronising stream,
- 12 e) decorrelating (121, 122) the digitised signal by a
- 13 code sequence (112) in the synchronisation stream and
- 14 f) reducing the interference of at least one other
- 15 (*j* ≠ *i*) than the signal component of the assigned
- 16 signal path (*i*) with the signal component of the
- 17 assigned signal path (*i*) in at least one of the
- 18 receiver fingers.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 step f) comprises a subtraction (130) of an interference
- 3 signal from the decorrelated digitised signal (116).
- 1 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
- 2 the subtraction takes place on symbol rate (1/T).

- 1 4. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein interference of other signal components ($j \neq i$)
3 than the assigned signal component (i) is reduced in all
4 receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N).
- 1 5. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein step e) comprises decorrelating (121, 122) the
3 digitised signal by multiplying the digitised signal
4 with a complex-conjugate pseudo-noise code sequence
5 (112).
- 1 6. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein an early-late timing error detection (102) is
3 provided in the synchronisation stream.
- 1 7. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein after step f) the real part (118, \tilde{x}) of the
3 interference reduced complex signal (\tilde{y}) is determined
4 (126).
- 1 8. A method according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein
2 before step f) the real part (x) of the complex signal
3 (116, y) is determined (126).
- 1 9. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein after step f) the interference reduced signal
3 (118, \tilde{x}) is filtered (103) in a step g).
- 1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein
2 steps e), f) and g) provide a code-tracking (101) of the
3 digitised signal (111).

- 1 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein
2 the code-tracking (101) provides an estimated timing
3 delay ($\hat{t}^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the assigned
4 signal path (i).
- 1 12. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein prior to step f) the digitised signal (111) is
3 distributed to a first and second correlator (121, 122).
- 1 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein
2 the digitised signal (111) is time-shifted prior to
3 feeding it to the second correlator (122) providing late
4 and early estimates (113, 114) as output of the first
5 and second correlator (121, 122), respectively.
- 1 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein
2 the early and late estimates (114, 113) are subtracted
3 (124) yielding an intermediate signal (117).
- 1 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the intermediate
2 signal (117) is multiplied (125) with reconstructed
3 transmitted symbols (115).
- 1 16. A rake receiver (17) for processing a received
2 electromagnetic signal (10) being a superposition of
3 signal components of different signal paths, comprising
4 a plurality of receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N), wherein
5 at least one of the receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N) is
6 adapted to receive a signal component assigned to one of
7 the signal paths (i) with $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$
8 a timing error detector (102) for estimating an error
9 of a delay ($\hat{t}_k^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the assigned

10 signal path (*i*) and
11 an interference reduction device (131) adapted to
12 reduce the interference of at least one other signal
13 component (*j*) with $j \neq i$ and $j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ with the said
14 signal component of the assigned signal path (*i*).

1 17. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16, wherein
2 the interference reduction device (131) comprises an
3 interference computation module (132) being adapted to
4 receive complex path weights ($c_k^{(j)}$, 134) and path delays
5 ($\hat{t}_k^{(i)}$, $\hat{t}_k^{(j)}$) to compute an interference signal of at least
6 one other signal component (*j*) with the said signal
7 component of the assigned signal path (*i*).

1 18. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16 or 17,
2 wherein
3 the interference reduction device (131) is adapted to
4 subtract (130) the interference signal of at least one
5 other signal component (*j*) from the said signal
6 component of the assigned signal path (*i*).

1 19. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding
2 device claims, comprising an A/D-converter (14) upstream
3 of the receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., *N*), for digitising
4 the received signal (10, 13).

1 20. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding
2 device claims, wherein the timing error detector (102)
3 comprises an early-late gate timing error detector.

1 21. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding
2 device claims, wherein each receiver finger (1, 2, ... ,

- 3 *N*) comprises a loop filter (103).
- 1 22. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 21, wherein
2 each receiver finger (1, 2, ..., *N*) comprises a code-
3 tracking loop (101) comprising the timing error detector
4 (102) and the loop filter (103).
- 1 23. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 22, wherein
2 the code-tracking loop (101) is adapted to estimate a
3 timing delay ($\hat{t}^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the
4 assigned signal path (*i*).
- 1 24. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding
2 device claims, wherein the timing error detector (102)
3 is adapted to provide pseudo-noise (112) decorrelation
4 (121, 122).
- 1 25. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the preceding
2 device claims, which is adapted for direct-sequence
3 code-division multiple access communication.

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